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A NEW SALDID FROM CALIFORNIA (HEMIPTERA: SALDIDAE)

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Several years ago, while studying the Usinger Collection, I separated a new species of *Saldula*. I had hoped to include it in a more comprehensive study of the genus, but the need for the new name has prompted me to publish it alone.

Saldula usingeri, n. sp.

Of moderate size, moderately broad, general color black, macropterous. (For all measurements, 60 units = 1 mm.)

Head: Black, feebly shining, surface almost obscured by dense, short, recumbent silvery pubescence; preocellar spot yellowish; with scattered long erect setae in addition to the usual three pairs of long hairs on frons and vertex; ocelli slightly raised and separated by the width of an ocellus; interocular space greater than the width of an eye (20:19); clypeus and anteclypeus testaceous medially, piceous elsewhere.

Thorax: Pronotum black, feebly shining, rugulose, surface almost obscured by pubescence, vestiture as described for head; covered with long black erect setae, very evident at lateral margins when viewed from above; lateral margins very slightly convex to straight, narrowing moderately anteriorly; callus slightly raised, with deep pit in center; anterior lobe longer than posterior lobe (17:8, not including collar); collar wide (5); underparts black, clothed with fine silvery pubescence; scutellum equal in width and length (57:57), with vestiture similar to pronotum, depressed transversely across center.

Wings: Hemelytra fully developed, pubescence and setae as on pronotum; ground color black; for most specimens, the inner corium and clavus are solid velvety black, and the outer corium is feebly shining and marked as in figure 1A; occasionally light spots are found on the inner corium along the corial suture and at the apex along the membrane; membrane fumose to deep fumose, with four cells.

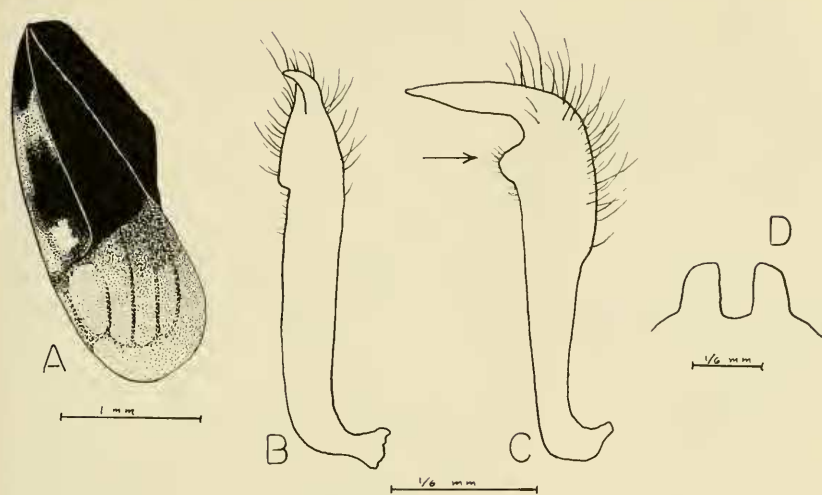


Fig. 1, *Saldula usingeri*, n. sp.: A, left hemelytron; B and C, left male paramere, two views; D, parandria.

Abdomen: Piceous, covered with short, decumbent silvery pubescence; in female, caudal portion of subgenital plate leucine, this plate produced caudad; parandria as shown in figure 1D.

Extremities: Antennal segment 1 testaceous, with deep brown ventral basal stripe; segment 2 deep brown, testaceous on apical third or fourth; segments 3 and 4 deep brown to piceous; as thick as the apex of segment 2, relatively slender for the genus; all segments clothed with short pubescence and scattered longer hairs, the latter longest on segments 3 and 4; proportions as follows:

Holotype ♂: I;20 : II;42 : III;28 : IV;30. Allotype ♀: I;20 : II;48 : III;29 : IV;28.

Legs testaceous, coxae, base and apex of trochanters, base of femora flavous to flavo-testaceous; tibia and tarsal segments darkened apically, tibia with usual dark spines.

Genitalia: Paramere as shown in figure 1B and 1C; filum gonopori coiled one and three fourths times; median sclerotized structures of aedeagus typically *Saldula* like.

Measurements: Holotype ♂, length 3.65 mm., width 1.85 mm., allotype ♀, length 4.8 mm., width 2.4 mm.

Mean length of 10 ♂♂: 3.84 mm.; min. 3.65 mm., max. 4.35 mm.

Mean width of 10 ♂♂: 1.81 mm.; min. 1.65 mm., max. 2.0 mm.

Mean length of 10 ♀♀: 4.20 mm.; min. 3.9 mm., max. 4.8 mm.

Mean width of 10 ♀♀: 2.18 mm.; min. 1.9 mm., max. 2.4 mm.

Material: Holotype, male, (R. L. Usinger Collection), Calif., Colusa Co., Wilbur Spr., Aug. 16, 1960, R. L. Usinger collector; allotype, female, same locality but May 17, 1961, Wygodzinsky collector;

paratypes as follows: 9 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀, same data as holotype; 3 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, 2 nymphs, same but May 17, 1961, Wygodzinsky collector; 1 ♂, 6 ♀♀, same but Sulphur Cr. at Wilbur Hot Spgs., Mar. 29, 1956, on shore in 'Footbath' pool area, H. B. Leech collector; 1 ♀, same as holotype but May 15, 1967, N. Ueshima collector; 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀, same as holotype but H. C. Chapman collector.

Paratypes are in the collections of P. Wygodzinsky, R. L. Usinger, H. C. Chapman, J. T. Polhemus, and USNM. I am indebted to Drs. Wygodzinsky, Usinger and Chapman for the opportunity to study this material, and to the latter for helping in the diagnosis of this material. This species is named in honor of Dr. R. L. Usinger in recognition of his interest in and fine contributions to our knowledge of Saldidae.

Comparative notes: *Saldula usingeri* n. sp. is close to *Saldula pilosella* (Thomson) of Europe. Both of these species have small eyes and a wide interocular space, the latter often exceeding the width of an eye in both species. In *usingeri*, however the front lobe of the pronotum is long compared to the posterior lobe (measured on a median line, not including the collar), the ratio for *usingeri* being anterior: posterior, 17.7: 10.8 (10 specimens) and for *pilosella* 12.9: 10.9 (10 specimens). In addition the pilosity of the paramere is much heavier in *usingeri* (fig. 1) and the paramere is of a different shape. The color of the specimens of the two species is quite different in the material examined, *pilosella* being much lighter.

Cobben (1958) considers *Saldula hirsuta* (Reuter) a subspecies of *S. pilosella*. Material of *hirsuta* has not been examined, but as Cobben gives only the relative hairiness as the difference between the two forms of *pilosella*, it is clear that we are dealing with a different species in *usingeri*.

Considering North American species, *usingeri* is closest to *Saldula pexa* Drake, however the parameres, parandria and eunomy are different. The clavus always has a well defined apical spot in *pexa*, and never in *usingeri*, however in the lightest specimens of the latter there is a small, ill-defined light area. The most distinctive character of *usingeri*, however, is the wide interocular space due to the small eyes, particularly noticeable in large females where the head looks disproportionately small.

Drake (1950) lists *Saldula hirsuta* (Reuter) as occurring in California, but almost certainly he was referring to either *usingeri* or *pexa*.

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